

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01841 250423Z

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 RSC-01 /023 W

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P 240945Z OCT 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2596

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1841

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DAY RECEPTIONS

1. AFTER FULL DISCUSSION WITH A UNANIMOUSLY CONCURRING
TOP USLO STAFF, I HAVE DECIDED WE SHOULD ATTEND NATIONAL
DAY DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS HERE.

2. THERE SEEMS NO LONGER TO BE ANY COMPELLING REASON NOT TO
DO THIS, EXCEPT FOR THE DAMAGE TO OUR COLLECTIVE LIVERS.

3. REASONS FOR ATTENDING NATIONAL DAYS RELATE MAINLY TO INCREASING
USLO CONTACTS WITH PRC OFFICIALS ALSO IN ATTENDANCE AND WITH
DIPLOMATIC CORPS -- ON WHOM WE RELY FOR A LOT OF INFORMATION.

4. IN ADDITION THERE HAS BEEN SOME SMALL RESENTMENT OR
MISUNDERSTANDING ON PART OF SOME SMALLER COUNTRIES WHOSE RECEPTIONS
WE HAVE NOT ATTENDED.

5. I STRONGLY FEEL THAT WE CAN GLEAN VALUABLE INFORMATION FROM
THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES DOWN THE ROAD. THEY ARE SOME WHO FEEL
MOST STRONGLY ABOUT NATIONAL DAYS.

6. HOLDRIDGE DOES NOT FEEL THIS WILL COMPLICATE OUR LIVES
REGARDING NONATTENDANCE AT FORMAL FUNCTIONS ATTENDED BY THE ENTIRE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS SUCH AS AIRPORT RECEPTIONS AND BANQUETS HONORING
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VISITING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OR CHIEFS OF STATE.

7. I RECOGNIZE THAT ONCE WE BEGIN THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE TURNING BACK, BUT GIVEN THE UNANIMOUS FEELING HERE THAT THE CONTACTS WILL PROVE EXTREMELY USEFUL AND GIVEN PRCLC WASHINGTON POLICY ON NATIONAL DAYS, I PLAN TO ACCEPT THE FIRST INVITATION THAT COMES ALONG AND THEN TRY TO DUTIFULLY ATTEND OR HAVE SOMEONE ATTEND OTHER SUCH OCCASIONS.

8. INASMUCH AS THIS IS A DIFFERENT APPROACH FROM BRUCE'S POLICY I WANTED TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT OF MY DECISION.
BUSH

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